

No. 53/35 EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Text of a statement given on October 8, 1953, by the Canadian representative on the Second Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Senator S.S. McKeen. Agenda item 27.

I wish to speak briefly in order to introduce to the Committee the resolution on the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance which has been co-sponsored by my delegation.

The resolution set out in Document A/C2/L.197 substantially adopts the recommendations put forward by the Economic and Social Council, which had two principal purposes: first, to urge the continuance of the Technical Assistance Programme on at least the same level as 1953, and second, to initiate a review of procedures in order to ensure the best use of available resources.

When the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance was examined and discussed in some detail at the sixteenth session of the Council, considerable attention was devoted to the need for a scrutiny of general financial procedures and of administrative or indirect operational costs. The general debate which has just been concluded has given us further valuable information and comments regarding the way in which the Technical Assistance Programme works and also the way in which it could perhaps, at certain points, be made to work better. My delegation welcomes the assurance given by the Executive Chairman of the TAB that the Committee's discussion of these points will be taken into account in the review of procedures which is at present underway, and that every effort will be made by all concerned to ensure that the largest possible proportion of available resources may be devoted to operational work rather than administrative or related costs.

We have heard from the Executive Chairman of the Technical Assistance Board that, owing to uncertainties of financing, it has been necessary to slow down operations in the last part of 1953 and to go on cautiously in planning for the first six months of 1954. Many delegations have indicated the adverse effects that these cuts will have on their own country's programmes. The Canadian Delegation, and I am sure many others, greatly regrets that it should have been necessary to drop or postpone any useful projects. As has been pointed out, these difficulties arise partly from the fact that many contributing governments are precluded by their constitutional procedures from pledging contributions on more than a yearly basis. It is encouraging to have heard from the Delegate of Indonesia that his government is prepared to pledge its support for the programme

on a long-term basis and we hope that as many other governments as are able will give consideration to doing the same. In my own country, it is necessary for the government to secure yearly approval of financial measures from Parliament. But the fact that Canada has contributed useful amounts to each of the three financial periods already passed and has made prompt and full payment of our pledged contributions, is, we hope, adequate evidence of our continued interest and support.

My delegation was glad to note that the speakers in the general debate almost without exception urged the maintenance of the programme at least at the level planned for 1953. Most especially welcome was the announcement of the Netherlands Delegation that in spite of the disastrous floods which earlier this year devastated much of the Netherlands countryside, their government has decided to increase its contribution to Technical Assistance by 50 per cent, raising it, that is, from \$400,000 to \$600,000. It was the essence of the Economic and Social Council recommendation that the programme for 1954 should be maintained at no less than the amount earmarked by the Technical Assistance Board for the approved 1953 programmes and we fully support this recommendation. We would go further and urge that all governments, including the larger contributors, make every effort to maintain or increase their contributions to the 1954 programme, not only to avoid the necessity of abandoning valuable and needed projects, but in order to keep the programme as a whole at a level which will ensure its most economical and effective operation. In making its contribution to the third financial period, the Government of Canada acted upon its belief that widespread and generous financial support from a large number of contributors is essential to the success of the programme. It accordingly pledged a maximum of \$850,000, provided that the objective for 1953, which was set at \$25 million, was reached. As it turned out, total pledges for 1953 were somewhat below the target figure and the Canadian contribution was eventually worked out on a matching principle at \$800,000 (U.S.). I am happy to announce that the Government of Canada, subject to the approval of Parliament and provided, as I have said, that the total of the 1954 programme remains at or above the level of economic efficiency, will, this year, make a substantial increase in its contribution to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The exact amount of that contribution will be determined by the level of support from the other contributors.

To conclude, I need only express the hope of my delegation that the draft resolution, which looks to the maintenance of the Technical Assistance Programme and makes provision for a review of administrative and financial procedures, will receive the support of the Committee.

